

SUE

October 15, 1984

TO: File

FROM: Thomas N. Tetting, Geologist

RE: Inspection of the Markey Mine, Cal Black Enterprises,
San Juan County, Utah

On September 27, 1984, Sue Linner, Tom Portle and Tom Tetting visited the Markey Mine located in Red Canyon, San Juan County. Prior arrangements had allowed the gate key to be picked up at Calvin Black Enterprises' motel, the Gateway, in Blanding. Access to the mine is via HW263 and then right at the Red Canyon turnoff. The mine status is currently inactive. It has never been reported to the Division, either as an exempt operation or as an active mine. No plans or maps are on file.

The minesite may be divided roughly into three areas. Approximately three acres are utilized as a storage area near the gate. A short access road links this to the main mine facilities area and waste rock location. This second area includes a large waste rock pad and dump which is actively eroding into the main canyon. Several old tires and incised runoff gullies mark the dump as it spreads out. Several portals or adits are located around the pad adjoining the cliff face. Many of these are sealed but some remain open. Equipment, including mine cars, tractors, trucks and miscellaneous pieces of machinery are scattered around the site. One side of the pad has been used as a scrap dump with material strewn downslope. A small cabin sits above the surrounding 30 foot cliff and serves as living quarters. It in turn is surrounded by a three-four foot dike which directs runoff from the drainage above, away from the building. This second location includes an estimated 8-10 acres. The third location is south of the main pad, further up the drainage. A large shed houses a diesel power plant. A well may also be housed in another shed. This final area includes another two-three acres of land.

The general consensus of those on site was that a mining and reclamation plan should be submitted for the operation. Overall, approximately 15 acres (or more) have been impacted. All locations are an integral part of the minesite and evidently a good portion of the used land was disturbed initially. Prior to 1981, the mine was in continuous operation for more than 20 years. Over a mile of underground works have been constructed and it is not known how many vent holes exist which may impact additional surface.

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Calvin Black and Tom Tetting met on September 14 and discussed the mine status prior to the visit. Although in operation for six years since the Mined Land Reclamation Act was passed, Mr. Black professed to regard the mine as an exempted operation. This does not appear to be the case, however. An appeal to the Division's management is made via this memo as to the next step to take and the direction in which permitting requirements ought to proceed. It is expected that Mr. Black will resist any attempt to permit the operation, particularly since it is in suspension at this time.

btb

cc: Dianne Nielson
Ron Daniels
Wayne Hedberg
Sue Linner
Tom Portle
Jim Smith
89860-54 & 55

















